

Patriot Pride

Patrick Henry Elementary
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Dear Reader,

This issue of the *Patriot Pride Elementary Newsletter* is a monthly communication piece from school to home. Electronic versions of this newsletter will be posted on the district webpage under the Patrick Henry Elementary section at the beginning of each month.

Yours in education,

Bryan Hieber

School hours

The same as last year, school starts at 8:00 a.m. and dismisses at 2:57 p.m. **Parents are reminded that students should not be dropped off in the mornings before 7:45 am.** For the safety of our students, we ask that parents do not enter the buildings in the morning unless under special circumstances.

Final Forms

Patrick Henry Local Schools is using FinalForms to file required paperwork online. We ask that you complete all the “beginning of the year” forms electronically this year. This system will be used for grades K-12. Kindergarten parents will be receiving their FinalForms email notification once all emergency medical forms are processed.

We have step-by-step directions and an FAQ document on our website. **Your student's teacher is NOT the person to direct questions to about FinalForms.** Please review the documents on our website for FAQ's and who to direct further questions to.



Upcoming Events

September 4th

NO SCHOOL (Labor Day)

September 15th

NO SCHOOL (teacher in-service)

September 6th

Fall Pictures (Wed/Friday Preschool, Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades)

September 7th

Fall Pictures (Tues/Thur Preschool, 3rd and 4th grades)

September 26th

PTO sponsored Walk-a-Thon

Drop Off/Pick Up at Patrick Henry Elementary

When dropping off or picking up your children at Patrick Henry Elementary please refer to the new traffic routes/regulations posted on our district website www.phpatriots.org. Students are not to be dropped off at school before 7:45 am. When dropping off, please pull up next to the curb by the "Patrick Henry Elementary" sign on the west side of the new elementary wing. For drop-offs, your child will simply get out on the right side of the car and an aide will be supervising them into the school. The same procedure will be used for pickups. Simply pull up along the sidewalk and your child will be ushered in to the right side of your car. Please refrain from parking in the parking lot and walking children into the school or picking them up at the end of the day unless you have a meeting or are dropping multiple items off.

Third Grade Reading Guarantee

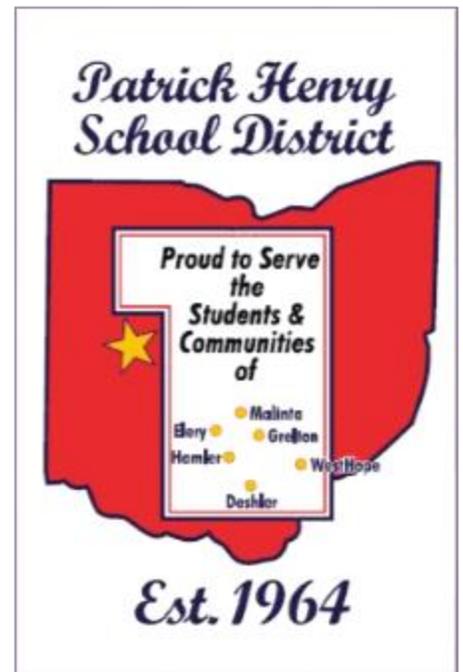
We will continue to implement the requirements of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee (3RG) this year. This means that each parent of a K-3 student will receive a letter this fall describing your child as "on track" or "not on track" in reading. If your child is "not on track", we will place them on a RIMP (Reading Improvement and Monitoring Plan). We feel confident that we have a system in place to support and enhance our struggling readers. However, if a reader is struggling we cannot do it alone. We also need parents to take an active role by reading to and with your child as often as possible. With home and school collaboration, I believe our students can achieve at the highest level!

Grade Cards

Once again, grades K-2 will use the standards-based grade card that our staff created. The idea behind a standards-based grade card is that parents, students, and teachers will know exactly where each student's strengths and weaknesses are. Grades 3 and 4 will utilize the "traditional" grade card with letter grades for each subject. Keep in mind that our district no longer applies +'s and -'s to letter grades.

PTO News

Our Elementary PTO is gearing up for another event-filled school year and would like to reach out to any parents/grandparents that would like to be a part of this wonderful organization. Our PTO is looking for some volunteer help throughout the year. They



In the Community

September 7th

Sr. Citizen Luncheon 12 pm @ PHHS

September 8th

PH Music Assoc. BBQ 4:30 – 6:00

September 10th

Malinta American Legion, Chicken BBQ @ 11:30 am

September 25th

PH BOE meeting @ 7 pm

September 29th

Homecoming football Game and FFA chicken BBQ

do not need a full-time commitment, just volunteers that can donate their time/resources at specific events. If you are interested and would like more information, you can simply call the school, email me at bhieber@phpatriots.org or contact the PTO directly through their Facebook page by searching Patrick Henry Elementary PTO. The first PTO meeting of the year will be September 21st at 5:00 pm in the library at Patrick Henry Elementary. The main topic for discussion at this meeting will be the Walk-a-Thon, which is the PTO's biggest fundraiser. The proceeds from this event provides amazing educational opportunities and resources for our elementary staff and students.

Parent/School Communication

Patrick Henry Elementary will use the following forms of communication to inform parents of important dates, events, highlights and delays/cancellations:

- Monthly newsletters: You are currently reading September's issue! These will be sent home monthly and will be archived on the elementary webpage found on the district website (www.phpatriots.org)
- Facebook: We have a Facebook page. You can search @PHelementary to find it. This page will be used to highlight important events, assemblies, awards and other forms of student/class recognition. School delays/cancellations will NOT be posted on this page. We will use text alerts for that. Simply search Patrick Henry Elementary (@PHelementary) to find our page and "like" the items on the page. The more you like the page, the more frequent it will show up in your News Feed. Until then, you can search our page for information as often as you like.
- Remind 101: This text-alert system was first implemented at the elementary a few years ago and it has received positive feedback. This one-way text messaging allows you to be notified about delays/cancellations and important reminders throughout the school year all at the convenience of your phone. If you are interested in signing up, text the number **81010** and in the message area type the following message (with the "at" sign): **@phkthru4**. An immediate text will follow asking you to reply with your name. Once you do that, you are in the system and all set to receive text alerts.

Happy Birthday

It is common practice for elementary students to have a little celebration at school on their birthday. Parents are welcome to bring in a snack (cupcakes, cookies, etc.) but we ask that you please bring enough for all the students/teachers in their class. In addition, due to feelings that could be hurt and extra burden being placed on teachers, please refrain from sending "birthday invites" to school to be passed out for upcoming birthdays.

Flip Flops/Sandals

Per handbook policy, flip-flops are not permitted to be worn at school. Sandals, on the other hand, are allowed. However, sandals might not be the best option at recess due to the playing surfaces (mulch/stone). Your child may wear sandals to school but if they do, it is a good idea to bring a pair of shoes and socks for them to change into.

Lunch Options

Students in grades 3 and 4 will have an opportunity to select between two lunch options in the cafeteria. You might have noticed already that the lunch menus have red line and blue line options. These students will get to choose between those two options. The teachers will ask them in the morning what lunch they will want but it might be good practice to go over the menu at home beforehand.

Students in grades PK – 2 will only have one option (BLUE LINE). The menus are posted on our district website at www.phpatriots.org.

IMPACT WITH HOPE

Patrick Henry Local Schools, led by the 7th and 8th grade STEM students are teaming up with Impact for Hope to collect supplies to help those affected by Hurricane Harvey. We are joining the Bucket Brigade and filling 5 gallon buckets with cleaning supplies.

Below is a list of items that are needed for each bucket.

- 5 gallon bucket with a lid
- 1 bottle of window cleaner
- 1 bottle of all-purpose cleaner
- 2 or 3 toothbrushes
- 1 scrub brush
- 2 Magic Eraser sponges
- 4 heavy duty scrub pads/sponges
- 2 pairs of rubber gloves
- 1 box/roll of large plastic trash bags
- 1 bottle of sunscreen
- 1 bottle of insect repellent
- 1 roll of paper towels
- 1 bottle of bleach
- 1 empty spray bottle

You can either bring in an item or two, OR you can donate an entire bucket. We will take all of the individual donations and assemble the buckets. **Please bring your donations to school by Friday, September 8th. Thank you for helping us help others!!**

Back into the School Routine

By the time you read this, we will have finished our first full week of school. It is my hope that our students (and parents) are settling into their routines both at school and at home. Please keep in mind that the National Sleep Foundation recommends that “school-aged children” should receive anywhere from 9 to 11 hours of sleep. While this can be difficult at times and we certainly understand that “life happens”, it is a good target to go by and maintain throughout the school year.